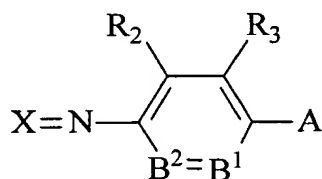


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet ink ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a coloring composition containing a coloring particulate containing an ionic-group-containing polymer, an oil-soluble dye, and a hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent having a boiling point of at least 150°C, the coloring particulate being dispersed in a water-based medium, wherein the oil-soluble dye is represented by general formula I:



wherein X represents a residual group of a color coupler; A represents -NR⁴R⁵ or a hydroxy group; R⁴ and R⁵ each independently represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group, aromatic group or heterocyclic group; B¹ represents =C(R⁶)- or =N-; B² represents -C(R⁷)= or -N=; R², R³, R⁶ and R⁷ each independently represent a hydrogen atom, halogen atom, aliphatic group, aromatic group, heterocyclic group, cyano group, -OR⁵¹, -SR⁵², -CO₂R⁵³, -OCOR⁵⁴, -NR⁵⁵R⁵⁶, -CONR⁵⁷R⁵⁸, -SO₂R⁵⁹, -SO₂NR⁶⁰R⁶¹, -NR⁶²CONR⁶³R⁶⁴, -NR⁶⁵CO₂R⁶⁶, -COR⁶⁷, -NR⁶⁸COR⁶⁹,

or $-\text{NR}^{70}\text{SO}_2\text{R}^{71}$; R^{51} , R^{52} , R^{53} , R^{54} , R^{55} , R^{56} , R^{57} , R^{58} , R^{59} , R^{60} , R^{61} , R^{62} , R^{63} , R^{64} , R^{65} , R^{66} , R^{67} , R^{68} , R^{69} , R^{70} and R^{71} each independently represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group or aromatic group; and any of pairs, R^2 and R^3 , R^3 and R^4 , R^4 and R^5 , R^5 and R^6 , and R^6 and R^7 may bond together to form a ring structure;

wherein the ionic group-containing polymer is a vinyl polymer; and

wherein the content of the hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent in the coloring composition is at least 25% by mass and not more than 95% by mass with respect to a total amount of the ionic-group-containing polymer, the oil-soluble dye, and the hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent.

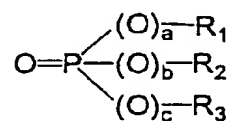
Claims 2 and 3 (Canceled)

4. (Original) An ink-jet ink according to claim 1, wherein a relative dielectric constant at 25° C of the hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent is from 3 to 12.

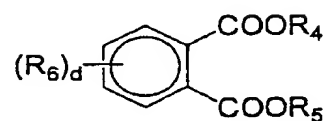
5. (Previously Presented) An ink-jet ink according to claim 1, wherein the ionic-group-containing vinyl polymer has at least one ionic group selected from the group consisting of carboxyl groups, sulfonic acid groups and mixtures thereof.

6. (Previously Presented) An ink-jet ink according to claim 1, wherein the hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent is at least one hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent selected from the group consisting of hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvents represented by following formulae S-1 to S-9:

Formula [S - 1]



Formula [S - 2]



Formula [S - 3]



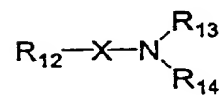
Formula [S - 4]



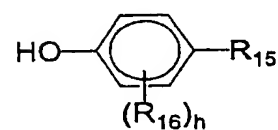
Formula [S - 5]



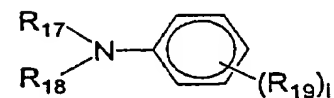
Formula [S - 6]



Formula [S - 7]

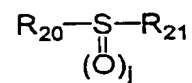


Formula [S - 8]



and

Formula [S - 9]



wherein: in the formula S-1, R_1 , R_2 and R_3 each independently represents an aliphatic group or an aryl group, and a, b and c each independently represents 0 or 1;

in the formula S-2, R_4 and R_5 each independently represents an aliphatic group or an aryl group, R_6 represents a fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, iodine atom, alkyl group, alkoxy group, aryloxy group, alkoxycarbonyl group or aryloxycarbonyl group, d represents an integer from 0 to 3, and where d is more than 1, one R_6 may be different from another R_6 ;

in the formula S-3, Ar represents an aryl group, e represents an integer from 1 to 6, and R_7 represents an e-valent hydrocarbon group or a hydrocarbon group that is mutually bonded by an ether bond;

in the formula S-4, R_8 represents an aliphatic group, f represents an integer from 1 to 6, and R_9 represents an f-valent hydrocarbon group or a hydrocarbon group that is mutually bonded by an ether bond;

in the formula S-5, g represents an integer from 2 to 6, R_{10} represents a g-valent hydrocarbon group other than an aryl group, and R_{11} represents an aliphatic group or an aryl group;

in the formula S-6, R_{12} , R_{13} and R_{14} each independently represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group or aryl group, X represents or -N-CO- or -SO₂-, and one of a pair R_{12} and R_{13} or R_{13} and R_{14} may bond together mutually to form a ring;

in the formula S-7, R_{15} represents an aliphatic group, alkoxycarbonyl group, aryloxycarbonyl group, alkylsulfonyl group, arylsulfonyl group, aryl group or cyano group, R_{16} represents a fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, iodine atom,

aliphatic group, aryl group, alkoxy group or aryloxy group, h represents an integer from 0 to 3, and where h is more than 1, one R_{16} may be different from another R_{16} ;

in the formula S-8, R_{17} and R_{18} each independently represents an aliphatic group or an aryl group, R_{19} represents a fluorine atom, chlorine atom, bromine atom, iodine atom, aliphatic group, aryl group, alkoxy group or aryloxy group, i represents an integer from 0 to 4, and where i is more than 1, one R_{19} may be different from another R_{19} ; and

in the formula S-9, R_{20} and R_{21} each independently represents an aliphatic group or aryl group, and j represents 1 or 2.

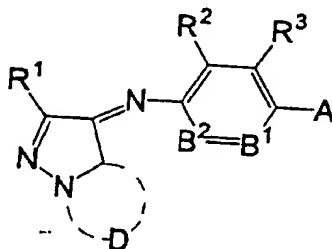
7. (Original) An ink-jet ink according to claim 1, wherein the content of the ionic-group-containing polymer is 1 to 70% by mass with respect to the total amount of the ionic-group-containing polymer, the oil-soluble dye, and the hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent.

8. (Original) An ink-jet ink according to claim 1, wherein the content of the oil-soluble dye is 3 to 70% by mass with respect to the total amount of the ionic-group-containing polymer, the oil-soluble dye, and the hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent.

9. (Original) An ink-jet ink according to claim 1, wherein average particle size of the coloring particulate is at most 100 nm.

10. (Previously Presented) An ink-jet ink according to claim 1, wherein the oil-soluble dye which is represented in said general formula I is a compound which is represented in the following general formula II:

General Formula II



wherein, R^2 , R^3 , A, B^1 , and B^2 are synonymous with R^2 , R^3 , A, B^1 , and B^2 in said general formula I:

R^1 represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, a cyano group, $-OR^{11}$, $-SR^{12}$, $-CO_2R^{13}$, $-OCOR^{14}$, $-NR^{15}R^{16}$, $-CONR^{17}R^{18}$, $-SO_2R^{19}$, $-SO_2NR^{20}R^{21}$, $-NR^{22}-CONR^{23}R^{24}$, $-NR^{25}CO_2R^{26}$, $-COR^{27}$, $-NR^{28}COR^{29}$ or $-NR^{30}SP_2R^{31}$;

R^{11} , R^{12} , R^{13} , R^{14} , R^{15} , R^{16} , R^{17} , R^{18} , R^{19} , R^{20} , R^{21} , R^{22} , R^{23} , R^{24} , R^{25} , R^{26} , R^{27} , R^{28} , R^{29} , R^{30} , and R^{31} represent respectively independently a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group or an aromatic group;

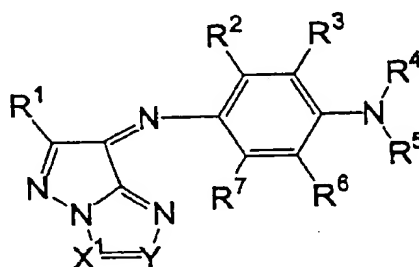
D represents an atom group which forms a five-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring or a six-membered nitrogen-containing heterocyclic ring which may optionally be substituted by an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, a cyano group, $-OR^{81}$, $-SR^{82}$, $-CO_2R^{83}$, $-OCOR^{84}$, $-NR^{85}R^{86}$, $-CONR^{87}R^{88}$, $-SO_2R^{89}$, $-SO_2NR^{90}R^{91}$, $-NR^{92}-CONR^{93}R^{94}$, $-NR^{95}CO_2R^{96}$, $-COR^{97}$, $-NR^{98}COR^{99}$ or $-NR^{100}SO_2R^{101}$;

the heterocyclic ring may further form a condensed ring with another ring; and

$R^{81}, R^{82}, R^{83}, R^{84}, R^{85}, R^{86}, R^{87}, R^{88}, R^{89}, R^{90}, R^{91}, R^{92}, R^{93}, R^{94}, R^{95}, R^{96}, R^{97}, R^{98}, R^{99}, R^{100}$, and R^{101} represent respectively independently a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group or an aromatic group.

11. (Previously Presented) An ink-jet ink according to claim 10, wherein the compound which is represented in said general formula II is a compound which is represented in the following general formula III:

General formula III

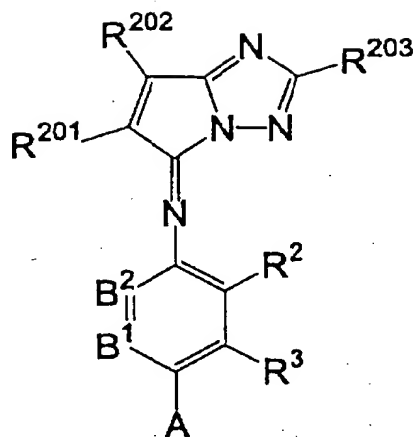


wherein, $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6$, and R^7 are synonymous with $R^1, R^2, R^3, R^4, R^5, R^6$, and R^7 in said general formula II;

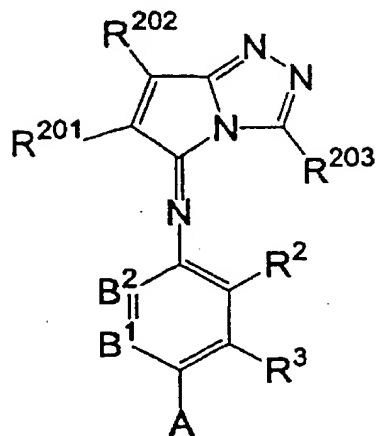
X^1 and Y represent respectively independently $-C(R^8)=$ or $-N=$;

R^8 represents a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, or an aromatic group; and one of X^1 or Y is always $-N=$, and X^1 and Y are $-N=$ at different times.

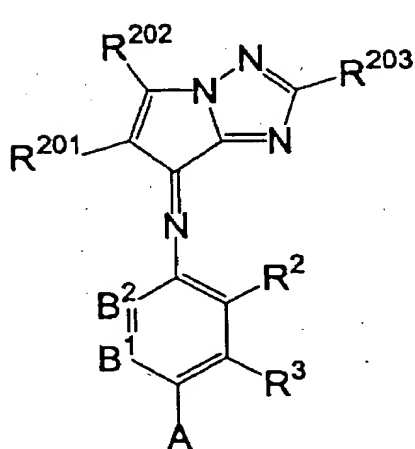
12. (Previously Presented) An ink-jet ink according to claim 1, wherein the oil-soluble dye which is represented in said general formula I is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of compounds which are represented in the following formulas IV-1 to IV-4:



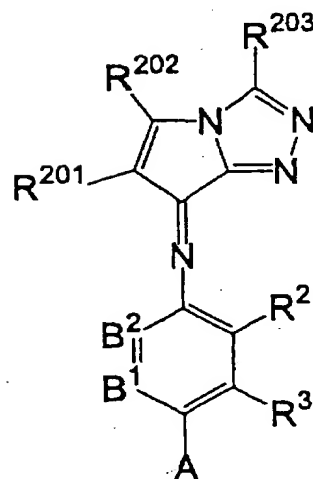
(IV-1)



(IV-2)



(IV-3)



(IV-4)

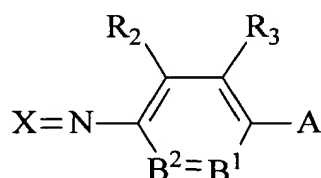
wherein, A, R², R³, B¹, and B² are synonymous with A, R², R³, B¹, and B² in said general formula I;

R²⁰¹, R²⁰², and R²⁰³ represent respectively independently a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group, an aromatic group, a heterocyclic group, a cyano group, -OR¹¹, -SR¹², -CO₂R¹³, -OCOR¹⁴, -NR¹⁵R¹⁶, -CONR¹⁷R¹⁸, -SO₂R¹⁹, -SO₂NR²⁰R²¹, -NR²²CONR²³R²⁴, -NR²⁵CO₂R²⁶, -COR²⁷, -NR²⁸COR²⁹ or -NR³⁰SO₂R³¹;

$R^{11}, R^{12}, R^{13}, R^{14}, R^{15}, R^{16}, R^{17}, R^{18}, R^{19}, R^{20}, R^{21}, R^{22}, R^{23}, R^{24}, R^{25}, R^{26}, R^{27}, R^{28}, R^{29}, R^{30}$, and R^{31} represent respectively independently a hydrogen atom, an aliphatic group or an aromatic group; and

R^{201} and R^{202} may be combined with each other to form a ring structure.

13. (Currently Amended) A coloring composition ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a coloring particulate containing an ionic-group-containing polymer, an oil-soluble dye, and a hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent having a boiling point of at least 150°C, the coloring particulate being dispersed in a water-based medium, wherein the oil-soluble dye is represented by general formula I:



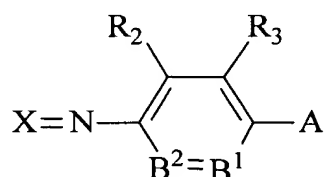
wherein X represents a residual group of a color coupler; A represents $-NR^4R^5$ or a hydroxy group; R^4 and R^5 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group, aromatic group or heterocyclic group; B^1 represents $=C(R^6)-$ or $=N-$; B^2 represents $-C(R^7)=$ or $-N=$; R^2, R^3, R^6 and R^7 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, halogen atom, aliphatic group, aromatic group, heterocyclic group, cyano group, $-OR^{51}$, $-SR^{52}$, $-CO_2R^{53}$, $-OCOR^{54}$, $-NR^{55}R^{56}$, $-CONR^{57}R^{58}$, $-SO_2R^{59}$, $-SO_2NR^{60}R^{61}$, $-NR^{62}CONR^{63}R^{64}$, $-NR^{65}CO_2R^{66}$, $-COR^{67}$, $-NR^{68}COR^{69}$, or $-NR^{70}SO_2R^{71}$; $R^{51}, R^{52}, R^{53}, R^{54}, R^{55}, R^{56}, R^{57}, R^{58}, R^{59}, R^{60}, R^{61}, R^{62}, R^{63}, R^{64}, R^{65}, R^{66}, R^{67}, R^{68}, R^{69}, R^{70}$ and R^{71} each independently represents a hydrogen atom,

aliphatic group or aromatic group; and any of pairs, R^2 and R^3 , R^3 and R^4 , R^4 and R^5 , R^5 and R^6 , and R^6 and R^7 may bond together to form a ring structure;

wherein the ionic group-containing polymer is a vinyl polymer; and

wherein the content of the hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent in the coloring composition is at least 25% by mass and not more than 95% by mass with respect to a total amount of the ionic-group-containing polymer, the oil-soluble dye, and the hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent.

14. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording method in which recording is conducted using an ink-jet ink on a recording material, the ink ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of a coloring composition containing a coloring particulate containing an ionic-group-containing polymer, an oil-soluble dye, and a hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent having a boiling point of at least 150°C, the coloring particulate being dispersed in a water-based medium, wherein the oil-soluble dye is represented by general formula I:



wherein X represents a residual group of a color coupler; A represents $-NR^4R^5$ or a hydroxy group; R^4 and R^5 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group, aromatic group or heterocyclic group; B^1 represents $=C(R^6)-$ or $=N-$; B^2 represents $-C(R^7)=$ or $-N=$; R^2 , R^3 , R^6 and R^7 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, halogen atom, aliphatic group, aromatic group, heterocyclic group,

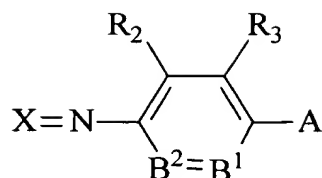
cyano group, $-OR^{51}$, $-SR^{52}$, $-CO_2R^{53}$, $-OCOR^{54}$, $-NR^{55}R^{56}$, $-CONR^{57}R^{58}$, $-SO_2R^{59}$, $-SO_2NR^{60}R^{61}$, $-NR^{62}CONR^{63}R^{64}$, $-NR^{65}CO_2R^{66}$, $-COR^{67}$, $-NR^{68}COR^{69}$, or $-NR^{70}SO_2R^{71}$; R^{51} , R^{52} , R^{53} , R^{54} , R^{55} , R^{56} , R^{57} , R^{58} , R^{59} , R^{60} , R^{61} , R^{62} , R^{63} , R^{64} , R^{65} , R^{66} , R^{67} , R^{68} , R^{69} , R^{70} and R^{71} each independently represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group or aromatic group; and any of pairs, R^2 and R^3 , R^3 and R^4 , R^4 and R^5 , R^5 and R^6 , and R^6 and R^7 may bond together to form a ring structure;

wherein the ionic group-containing polymer is a vinyl polymer; and wherein the content of the hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent in the coloring composition is at least 25% by mass and not more than 95% by mass with respect to a total amount of the ionic-group-containing polymer, the oil-soluble dye, and the hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent.

Claim 15 (Canceled)

16. (Original) An ink-jet recording method according to claim 14 wherein the recording material includes a substrate on which is provided an ink receiving layer containing a porous inorganic pigment.

17. (Currently Amended) An ink-jet recording method comprising the step of:
(a) preparing an ink-jet ink ~~containing~~ consisting essentially of a coloring composition in which a coloring particulate containing an ionic-group-containing polymer, an oil-soluble dye, and a hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent having a boiling point of at least 150°C are dispersed in an aqueous medium, wherein the oil-soluble dye is represented by general formula I:



wherein X represents a residual group of a color coupler; A represents $-NR^4R^5$ or a hydroxy group; R^4 and R^5 each independently represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group, aromatic group or heterocyclic group; B^1 represents $=C(R^6)-$ or $=N-$; B^2 represents $-C(R^7)=$ or $-N=$; R^2 , R^3 , R^6 and R^7 each independently represent a hydrogen atom, halogen atom, aliphatic group, aromatic group, heterocyclic group, cyano group, $-OR^{51}$, $-SR^{52}$, $-CO_2R^{53}$, $-OCOR^{54}$, $-NR^{55}R^{56}$, $-CONR^{57}R^{58}$, $-SO_2R^{59}$, $-SO_2NR^{60}R^{61}$, $-NR^{62}CONR^{63}R^{64}$, $-NR^{65}CO_2R^{66}$, $-COR^{67}$, $-NR^{68}COR^{69}$, or $-NR^{70}SO_2R^{71}$; R^{51} , R^{52} , R^{53} , R^{54} , R^{55} , R^{56} , R^{57} , R^{58} , R^{59} , R^{60} , R^{61} , R^{62} , R^{63} , R^{64} , R^{65} , R^{66} , R^{67} , R^{68} , R^{69} , R^{70} and R^{71} each independently represents a hydrogen atom, aliphatic group or aromatic group; and any of pairs, R^2 and R^3 , R^3 and R^4 , R^4 and R^5 , R^5 and R^6 , and R^6 and R^7 may bond together to form a ring structure;

wherein the ionic group-containing polymer is a vinyl polymer; and

with the content of the hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent in the coloring composition being at least 25% by mass and not more than 95% by mass with respect to total amount of the ionic-group-containing polymer, the oil-soluble dye, and the hydrophobic high-boiling-point organic solvent,

(b) disposing the ink-jet ink in a cartridge adapted for use in an ink-jet printer, and

(c) using the cartridge in an ink jet printer for recording images.

18. (Original) An ink-jet recording method according to claim 17, wherein the step of preparing an ink-jet ink includes the sub-step of dispersing the ionic-group-containing polymer, the oil-soluble dye, and the hydrophobic high-boiling point organic solvent by a co-emulsifying dispersion technique.